

Generalized Transverse-Momentum Dependent Parton Distributions in Light-Cone Quark Models

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We discuss the general formalism for the calculation in light-cone quark models of the fully unintegrated, off-diagonal quark-quark correlator of the nucleon. The corresponding distributions in impact parameter space are the Wigner or phase-space distributions. The results obtained in two different light-cone quark models in the case of unpolarized quarks in an unpolarized proton are very similar and present a non-trivial shape which can be understood as due to the orbital motion of the quarks.

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1. Introduction

Hadrons are composite objects. Their interaction with external probes like *e.g.* photons is parameterized in terms of Lorentz-invariant functions. The most complete information is contained in the so-called generalized transverse-momentum dependent parton distributions (GTMDs). After appropriate Fourier transform, the GTMDs can be interpreted as Wigner or phase-space distributions, giving access to the correlations between quark momentum and transverse position.

A brief introduction to the generalized quark-quark correlator functions defining the GTMDs can be found in Section 2. On the light cone, this correlator can be written as the overlap of light-cone wave functions. We present in Section 3 the overlap restricted to the three quark (3Q) sector and specify the expression to a light-front constituent quark model (LFCQM) and the chiral quark-soliton model (χ QSM). In Section 4 it is explained why working on the light cone is mandatory to develop a (quasi-)probabilistic interpretation of the distributions. Finally, we apply in Section 5 the formalism presented in the previous sections to study the distribution of an unpolarized quark in an unpolarized proton.

2. General Quark-Quark Correlator

The maximum amount of information on the partonic structure of the nucleon is contained in the fully-unintegrated quark-quark correlator \tilde{W} for a spin-1/2 hadron [1, 2, 3, 4], defined as

$$\tilde{W}_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^{[\Gamma]}(P, k, \Delta, N; \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^4 z}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot z} \langle p', \Lambda' | \bar{\psi}(-\frac{1}{2}z) \Gamma \mathcal{W} \psi(\frac{1}{2}z) | p, \Lambda \rangle. \quad (2.1)$$

This correlator is a function of the initial and final hadron light-cone helicities Λ and Λ' , the average hadron and quark four-momenta $P = (p' + p)/2$ and k , and the four-momentum transfer to the hadron $\Delta = p' - p$ (see Fig. 1 for the kinematics). The superscript Γ stands for any element of the

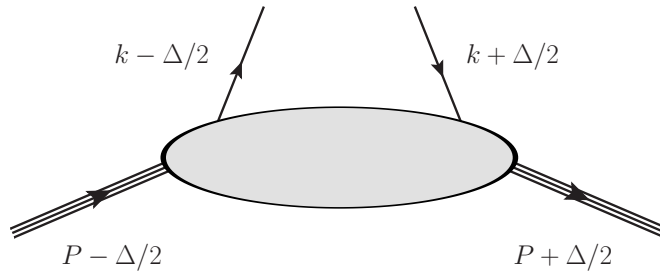


Figure 1: Kinematics for the fully-unintegrated quark-quark correlator.

basis $\{\mathbb{1}, \gamma_5, \gamma^\mu, \gamma^\mu \gamma_5, i\sigma^{\mu\nu}\}$ in Dirac space. A Wilson line $\mathcal{W} \equiv \mathcal{W}(-\frac{1}{2}z, \frac{1}{2}z|n)$ ensures the color gauge invariance of the correlator, connecting the points $-\frac{1}{2}z$ and $\frac{1}{2}z$ via the intermediary points $-\frac{1}{2}z + \infty \cdot n$ and $\frac{1}{2}z + \infty \cdot n$ by straight lines. This induces a dependence of the Wilson line on the light-cone direction n . Since any rescaled four-vector αn with some positive parameter α could be used to specify the Wilson line, the correlator actually only depends on the four-vector $N = \frac{M^2 n}{P \cdot n}$, where M is the hadron mass. The parameter $\eta = \text{sign}(n^0)$ gives the sign of the zeroth component of n , *i.e.* indicates whether the Wilson line is future-pointing ($\eta = +1$) or past-pointing ($\eta = -1$).

The quark-quark correlators parametrized in terms of generalized parton distributions (GPDs), transverse-momentum dependent parton distributions (TMDs) and form factors (FFs) correspond to specific limits or projections of Eq. (2.1). These correlators have in common the fact that the quark fields are taken at the same light-cone time $z^+ = 0$. Let us then focus our attention on the k^- -integrated version of Eq. (2.1)

$$\begin{aligned} W_{\Lambda\Lambda}^{[\Gamma]}(P, x, \vec{k}_\perp, \Delta, N; \eta) &= \int dk^- \tilde{W}_{\Lambda\Lambda}^{[\Gamma]}(P, k, \Delta, N; \eta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dz^- d^2 z_\perp}{(2\pi)^3} e^{ik \cdot z} \langle p', \Lambda' | \bar{\psi}(-\tfrac{1}{2}z) \Gamma \mathcal{W} \psi(\tfrac{1}{2}z) | p, \Lambda \rangle \Big|_{z^+=0}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

where we used for a generic four-vector $a^\mu = [a^+, a^-, \vec{a}_\perp]$ the light-cone components $a^\pm = (a^0 \pm a^3)/\sqrt{2}$ and the transverse components $\vec{a}_\perp = (a^1, a^2)$, and $x = k^+/P^+$ is the average fraction of longitudinal momentum carried by the quark. A complete parametrization of this object in terms of so-called generalized transverse momentum dependent parton distributions (GTMDs) has been achieved in [4]. The GTMDs can be considered as the *mother distributions* of GPDs and TMDs. For example, the (T-even) distribution of unpolarized quarks in an unpolarized hadron is given by the GTMD F_{11}^e , and is related to the GPD H and the TMD f_1 as follows

$$\begin{aligned} H(x, 0, \vec{\Delta}_\perp^2) &= \int d^2 k_\perp F_{11}^e(x, 0, \vec{k}_\perp^2, \vec{k}_\perp \cdot \vec{\Delta}_\perp, \vec{\Delta}_\perp^2), \\ f_1(x, \vec{k}_\perp^2) &= F_{11}^e(x, 0, \vec{k}_\perp^2, 0, 0). \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

3. Overlap Representation

Following the lines of [5, 6], we obtain in the light-cone gauge $A^+ = 0$ an overlap representation for the correlator (2.2) at the twist-two level restricted to the 3Q Fock sector¹

$$W_{\Lambda\Lambda}^{[\Gamma]}(P, x, \vec{k}_\perp, \Delta, N; \eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\xi^2}} \sum_{\lambda'_i, \lambda_i} \int [dx]_3 [d^2 k_\perp]_3 \Delta(\tilde{k}) \psi_{\Lambda'\beta'}^*(r') \psi_{\Lambda\beta}(r) \prod_{i=1}^3 M^{\lambda'_i \lambda_i}, \quad (3.1)$$

where the integration measures are defined as

$$[dx]_3 \equiv \left[\prod_{i=1}^3 dx_i \right] \delta\left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^3 x_i\right), \quad [d^2 k_\perp]_3 \equiv \left[\prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{d^2 k_{i\perp}}{2(2\pi)^3} \right] 2(2\pi)^3 \delta^{(2)}\left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \vec{k}_{i\perp}\right). \quad (3.2)$$

Furthermore, in Eq. (3.1) the function $\Delta(\tilde{k}) = 3\Theta(x_1)\delta(x-x_1)\delta^{(2)}(\vec{k}_\perp - \vec{k}_{1\perp})$ selects the active quark average momentum (we choose to label the active quark with $i=1$ and the spectator quarks with $i=j=2,3$). The 3Q LCWF $\psi_{\Lambda\beta}(r)$ depends on the momentum coordinates $\tilde{k}_i = (y_i, \kappa_{i\perp})$ of the quarks relative to the hadron momentum (collectively indicated by r), and the index β which stands for the set of the quark light-cone helicities $\{\lambda_i\}$. The transition from the initial quark light-cone helicity λ_i to the final one λ'_i is described by a complex-valued 2×2 matrix $M^{\lambda'_i \lambda_i}$. In particular, we have for the spectator quarks $M^{\lambda'_j \lambda_j} = \delta^{\lambda'_j \lambda_j}$. For the active quark, the matrix

¹ Quark flavor and color indices have been omitted for clarity. In the processes considered here the flavor and color of a given quark remain unchanged.

$M^{\lambda'_1 \lambda_1}$ depends on the twist-two Dirac structure $\Gamma_{\text{twist-2}} = \{\gamma^+, \gamma^+ \gamma_5, i\sigma^{+1} \gamma_5, i\sigma^{+2} \gamma_5\}$ used in the correlator, see *e.g.* [7, 8, 9].

We choose to work in an infinite momentum frame such that P^+ is large, $\vec{P}_\perp = \vec{0}_\perp$ and $\Delta \cdot P = 0$. The four-momenta involved are then

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \left[P^+, \frac{M^2 + \frac{\Delta_\perp^2}{4}}{2(1-\xi^2)P^+}, \vec{0}_\perp \right], & \Delta &= \left[-2\xi P^+, \xi \frac{M^2 + \frac{\Delta_\perp^2}{4}}{(1-\xi^2)P^+}, \vec{\Delta}_\perp \right], \\ k &= \left[xP^+, k^-, \vec{k}_\perp \right], & n &= \left[0, \pm 1, \vec{0}_\perp \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Note that the form used for n is not the most general one, but leads to an appropriate definition of TMDs for SIDIS and DY processes. For the active and spectator quarks the initial and final momentum coordinates are then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{k}_1 &= \left(\frac{x+\xi}{1+\xi}, \vec{k}_\perp - \frac{1-x}{1+\xi} \frac{\vec{\Delta}_\perp}{2} \right), & \tilde{k}'_1 &= \left(\frac{x-\xi}{1-\xi}, \vec{k}_\perp + \frac{1-x}{1-\xi} \frac{\vec{\Delta}_\perp}{2} \right), \\ \tilde{k}_j &= \left(\frac{x_j}{1+\xi}, \vec{k}_{j\perp} + \frac{x_j}{1+\xi} \frac{\vec{\Delta}_\perp}{2} \right), & \tilde{k}'_j &= \left(\frac{x_j}{1-\xi}, \vec{k}_{j\perp} - \frac{x_j}{1-\xi} \frac{\vec{\Delta}_\perp}{2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

So far, the exact 3Q LCWF derived directly from the QCD Lagrangian is not known. Nevertheless, we can try to reproduce the gross features of hadron structure at low scales using constituent quark models. Many models exist on the market based on the concept of constituent quarks. However only a few incorporate consistently relativistic effects. We focus here on two such models: the light-front constituent quark model (LFCQM) [7, 8, 9] and the chiral quark-soliton model (χ QSM) [10, 11, 12, 13, 14]. The LCWFs used in LFCQM and in χ QSM have a very similar structure given by

$$\psi_{\Lambda\beta}(r) = \Psi(r) \sum_{\sigma_i} \Phi_\Lambda^{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3} \prod_{i=1}^3 D_{\lambda_i \sigma_i}(\tilde{k}_i), \quad (3.5)$$

where $\Psi(r)$ is a global symmetric momentum wave function, $\Phi_\Lambda^{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3}$ is the $SU(6)$ spin-flavor wave function, and $D(\tilde{k})$ is an $SU(2)$ matrix connecting light-cone helicity λ_i and canonical spin σ_i

$$D(\tilde{k}) = \frac{1}{|\vec{K}|} \begin{pmatrix} K_z & K_L \\ -K_R & K_z \end{pmatrix}, \quad K_{R,L} = K^1 \pm iK^2. \quad (3.6)$$

The explicit expressions for the momentum wave function $\Psi(r)$ in Eq. (3.5) and the vector \vec{K} in Eq. (3.6) in LFCQM read

$$\Psi(r) = 2(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{\frac{\omega_1 \omega_2 \omega_3}{x_1 x_2 x_3 \mathcal{M}_0}} \frac{\mathcal{N}}{(\mathcal{M}_0^2 + \beta^2)^\gamma}, \quad K_z = m + y\mathcal{M}_0, \quad \vec{K}_\perp = \vec{\kappa}_\perp, \quad \kappa_z = y\mathcal{M}_0 - \omega, \quad (3.7)$$

where \mathcal{N} is a normalization factor, $\mathcal{M}_0 = \sum_i \omega_i$ is the free invariant mass, ω_i is the free energy of quark i , m is the constituent quark mass, and β, γ are model parameters fitted to reproduce the anomalous magnetic moments of the nucleon [15]. On the other hand, within the χ QSM one has

$$\Psi(r) = \mathcal{N} \prod_{i=1}^3 |\vec{K}_i|, \quad K_z = h + \frac{\kappa_z}{|\vec{K}|} j, \quad \vec{K}_\perp = \frac{\vec{\kappa}_\perp}{|\vec{K}|} j, \quad \kappa_z = y\mathcal{M}_N - E_{\text{lev}}, \quad (3.8)$$

where \mathcal{M}_N is the soliton mass, E_{lev} is the energy of the discrete level in the spectrum, and h, j are the upper and lower components of the Dirac spinor describing this discrete level.

For further convenience we introduce the tensor correlator

$$W^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\bar{\sigma}^\mu W^\nu] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\Lambda'\Lambda} (\bar{\sigma}^\mu)^{\Lambda\Lambda'} W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^\nu, \quad (3.9)$$

where $W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^\nu \equiv (W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^{[\gamma^+]}, W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^{[i\sigma^{+1}\gamma_5]}, W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^{[i\sigma^{+2}\gamma_5]}, W_{\Lambda'\Lambda}^{[\gamma^+\gamma_5]})$ and $\bar{\sigma}^\mu = (1, \vec{\sigma})$ with σ_i the Pauli matrices. We now use the LCWF given by Eq. (3.5) and write the overlap representation of the correlator tensor $W^{\mu\nu}$ as

$$W^{\mu\nu}(P, x, \vec{k}_\perp, \Delta, N; \eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\xi^2}} \int [dx]_3 [d^2k_\perp]_3 \Delta(\vec{k}) \Psi^*(r') \Psi(r) \mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}(r', r), \quad (3.10)$$

where $\mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}(r', r)$ stands for

$$\mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}(r', r) = A O_1^{\mu\nu} (l_2 \cdot l_3) + B [l_2^\mu (l_3 \cdot O_1)^\nu + l_3^\mu (l_2 \cdot O_1)^\nu]. \quad (3.11)$$

In Eq. (3.11), $l_j^\mu = O_j^{\mu 0}$ and the matrix $O^{\mu\nu}$ is given by

$$O^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{|\vec{K}'||\vec{K}|} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{K}' \cdot \vec{K} & i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_x & i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_y & -i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_z \\ i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_x & \vec{K}' \cdot \vec{K} - 2K'_x K_x & -K'_x K_y - K'_y K_x & K'_x K_z + K'_z K_x \\ i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_y & -K'_y K_x - K'_x K_y & \vec{K}' \cdot \vec{K} - 2K'_y K_y & K'_y K_z + K'_z K_y \\ i(\vec{K}' \times \vec{K})_z & -K'_z K_x - K'_x K_z & -K'_z K_y - K'_y K_z & -\vec{K}' \cdot \vec{K} + 2K'_z K_z \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.12)$$

The tensor correlator $W^{\mu\nu}$ in Eq. (3.9) has two indices. The index μ refers to the transition in terms of baryon light-cone helicity, while the index ν refers to the transition in terms of the active quark light-cone helicity. For example, the components W^{00} and W^{03} correspond to the matrix elements of the γ^+ and $\gamma^+\gamma_5$ operators in the case of an unpolarized hadron, respectively. Equation (3.10) gives the explicit expression for the tensor correlator in terms of the overlap of initial $\Psi(r)$ and final $\Psi^*(r')$ symmetric (instant-form) momentum wave functions with the tensor $\mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}(r', r)$ for a fixed mean momentum of the active quark \vec{k} . The tensor $\mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}(r', r)$ contains the spin-flavor structure derived from the overlap of the three initial and final quarks. Taking into account the possible couplings of the helicities of the active and spectator quarks to give the hadron helicity, the coefficient A and B in Eq. (3.11) for SU(6) spin-flavor wave functions are

$$A_u^p = 4, \quad B_u^p = 1, \quad A_d^p = -1, \quad B_d^p = 2. \quad (3.13)$$

Furthermore, the matrix $O^{\mu\nu}$ in Eq. (3.12) describes the overlap of the initial and final quark states. The columns are labeled by the index ν which indicates the type of transition in terms of quark light-cone helicity. The rows are labeled by the index μ which indicates the type of transition in terms of quark canonical spin. This matrix reduces to $l_i^\mu = O_i^{\mu 0}$ for the spectator quarks, since in this case the light-cone helicity is conserved.

4. Impact Parameter Space

According to the standard interpretation [17, 18], the charge density can be identified with the three-dimensional Fourier transform of the electric Sachs Form Factor G_E , *i.e.* the matrix element of the current density J^0

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} G_E(Q^2). \quad (4.1)$$

This identification is actually only valid in the nonrelativistic approximation. To work out the Fourier transform, one has to know the form factors for every Q^2 . In the Breit frame the latter is identified with the three-momentum of the virtual photon $Q^2 = \vec{q}^2$. This means that for every value of Q^2 we have to move to a different frame and the charge density undergoes naturally a different Lorentz contraction. Moreover, in order to have a probabilistic/charge density interpretation, the number of particles should be conserved. However, in the Breit frame nothing prevents the photon to create or annihilate a quark-antiquark pair.

All these problems are cured in the infinite momentum frame with $q^+ = 0$ (the so-called Drell-Yan-West frame). The photon is kinematically not allowed to change the number of quarks as the light-cone momentum of a massive particle is strictly positive $p^+ > 0$. Moreover, the hadron undergoes an extreme Lorentz contraction and looks like a pancake. Only a two-dimensional charge density [19, 20, 21, 22, 23] is then meaningful and can be identified with the two-dimensional Fourier transform of the matrix element of J^+

$$\rho_{\vec{s}}(\vec{b}_\perp) = \int \frac{d^2q_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-i\vec{q}_\perp \cdot \vec{b}_\perp}}{2p^+} \langle p^+, \frac{\vec{q}_\perp}{2}, \vec{s} | J^+(0) | p^+, -\frac{\vec{q}_\perp}{2}, \vec{s} \rangle, \quad (4.2)$$

the photon virtuality being given by $Q^2 = \vec{q}_\perp^2$, and \vec{s} denoting the hadron polarization.

5. Wigner Distributions

Wigner distributions are quantum phase-space distributions, containing all the correlations between position and momentum of the partons. Since Heisenberg's uncertainty principle forbids to determine precisely both position and momentum of a quantum state, Wigner distributions have to be considered as quasi-probabilistic distributions. In the context of quantum field theory, they have already been discussed to some extent in the Breit frame [2]. For the reason mentioned in the previous section, it is actually preferable to work in the infinite momentum frame. By Fourier transforming F_{11}^e in Eq.(2.3) with respect to $\vec{\Delta}_\perp$ and integrating over x , we obtain a (transverse) phase-space distribution $\rho(\vec{k}_\perp^2, \vec{k}_\perp \cdot \vec{b}_\perp, \vec{b}_\perp^2)$. The only two available transverse vectors are \vec{k}_\perp and \vec{b}_\perp . This means that for fixed $\hat{k}_\perp \cdot \hat{b}_\perp$ and $|\vec{k}_\perp|$ the distribution is axially symmetric, which is physically meaningful since there is not a preferred direction in the transverse plane and a global rotation around \hat{e}_z should not have any effect on the distribution of unpolarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon.

If we are now interested in the amplitude to find a fixed transverse momentum \vec{k}_\perp in the transverse plane, the distribution is not axially symmetric anymore due to the $\vec{k}_\perp \cdot \vec{b}_\perp$ dependence. Although the Wigner distributions can not be directly extracted from experiments, they can be inferred from the LCWFs parametrized on the basis of our phenomenological knowledge of GPDs, TMDs

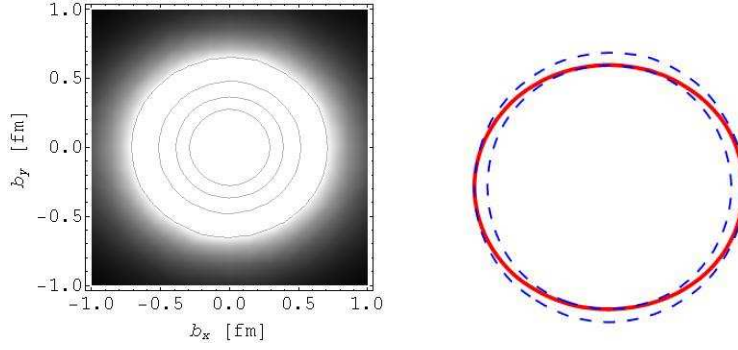


Figure 2: Typical distribution (left) and equi-amplitude line (right) of fixed $\vec{k}_\perp = k_\perp \hat{e}_y$ in the transverse plane for an unpolarized quark in an unpolarized nucleon.

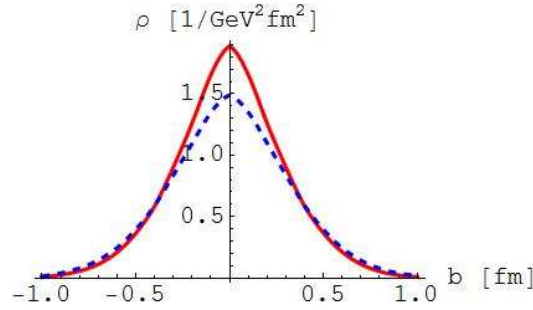


Figure 3: Typical radial distributions in the transverse plane for fixed $\hat{k}_\perp \cdot \hat{b}$ and $|\vec{k}_\perp|$ of an unpolarized quark in an unpolarized proton. Solid line corresponds to half of the up quark distribution. Dashed line corresponds to the down quark distribution.

and form factors. As a starting point, we used the χ QSM and LFCQM which were introduced in Section 3 and already tested in the calculation of several nucleon observables [12, 13, 14, 15, 16].

In the case of F_{11}^e , both models give the same qualitative picture with a larger distribution amplitude when $k_\perp \perp b_\perp$ and smaller when $k_\perp \parallel b_\perp$ (see Fig. 2). This can be understood with naive semi-classical arguments. The radial momentum $(\vec{k}_\perp \cdot \hat{b}_\perp) \hat{b}_\perp$ of a quark has to decrease rapidly in the periphery because of confinement. The polar momentum $\vec{k}_\perp - (\vec{k}_\perp \cdot \hat{b}_\perp) \hat{b}_\perp$ receives a contribution from the orbital motion of the quark which can still be significant in the periphery (in an orbital motion, one does not need to reduce the momentum to avoid a quark escape). This naive picture also tells us that this phenomenon should become more pronounced as we go to peripheral regions ($|\vec{b}_\perp| \gg$) and to high quark momenta ($|\vec{k}_\perp| \gg$). This tendency is supported by both models.

It is also interesting to compare up and down quark distributions. Let us fix once again $\hat{k}_\perp \cdot \hat{b}_\perp$ and $|\vec{k}_\perp|$. The distribution being axially symmetric in the transverse plane, we focus on the radial distribution, see Fig. 3. The up quark distribution has been divided by two for comparison with the down quark distribution. Up quarks appear to be more concentrated around the center than down quarks. For a neutron, we just have to exchange up and down quarks. We can therefore see that the center of the neutron is negative, in agreement with the conclusion obtained using the phenomenological neutron FFs [22].

6. Summary

We used the framework of light-cone wave function to study generalized transverse-momentum dependent parton distributions which parametrize the most general quark-quark correlator. These distributions are connected to the Wigner or phase-space distributions by Fourier transform. We presented a general expression for the 3Q contribution to the generalized correlation functions defining the GTMDs and applied it to a light-front constituent quark model and the chiral quark-soliton model. A non-trivial pattern for the phase-space distribution in the transverse plane for an unpolarized quark in an unpolarized proton has been observed and interpreted semi-classically as related to the quark orbital angular momentum. We also confirmed the picture of a negatively charged core in the neutron. A presentation of the systematic study of generalized transverse-momentum dependent parton distributions is in preparation.

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